



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
**30 June 2010**

**New Family Court Judge Appointed to Newcastle Registry**

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today welcomed the appointment of Ms Margaret Cleary as judge for the Newcastle Registry of the Family Court of Australia.

"Ms Cleary has an extensive and distinguished career in the legal service, with almost 25 years experience working in children's family law cases" said Ms Grierson.

"Her experience will be a great asset to the bench of the Family Court."

Ms Cleary is member of the Family Law Committee of the NSW Bar Association and is the co-author of *What's New in Family Law?*, and a contributor to *The Nuts and Bolts of Family Law*, both important legal texts exploring recent developments in Family Law.

Prior to her appointment to the Newcastle Registry, Ms Cleary was located at Frederick Jordan Chambers in Sydney.

"Ms Cleary will replace the Honourable Justice Judith Maureen Ryan, who is transferring to Sydney," said Ms Grierson.

"I thank Justice Ryan for her dedicated service in the Newcastle Registry and wish her well in her future professional activities."

Ms Cleary's appointment was made in accordance with the Government's transparent and merit-based judicial appointments policy, following calls for expressions of interest and nominations which resulted in 45 candidates being considered for appointment.

Candidates were assessed for appointment by an expert panel comprising Family Court Chief Justice Diana Bryant, the Hon Ian Callinan AC, former Justice of the High Court of Australia, the Hon Richard Chisholm AM, former Judge of the Family Court of Australia, and a senior official from the Attorney-General's Department.

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